

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O

For Release:
June 25, 2002

Contact: Sean Conway
(202) 224-6207
Kelly Brady
(202) 224-5946

ALLARD TOLD COLORADO TO RECEIVE \$9 MILLION READING FIRST GRANT FUNDING AIMED AT IMPROVING STUDENTS READING SKILLS

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) was informed Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Education that Colorado has been awarded a \$9 million Reading First grant. The Reading First grants assist States, districts and individual schools implement proven instructional and assessment tools to ensure that all children can read at grade level or above by the end of third grade.

“This grant announcement is great news for Colorado’s students,” said Allard. “This funding will assist thousands of students in Colorado improve their reading skills and ensure that no child is left behind.”

The Reading First initiative was a major component of the “The No Child Left Behind Act” that Senator Allard helped craft as a member of the Education Conference Committee and which was signed into law by President Bush earlier this year.

The Department of Education has approved Colorado’s Reading First plan for a six-year period. Over the next six years, Colorado could receive approximately \$59 million in Reading First grants to implement reading programs.

###